

**ARKANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTION
ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRANT FUNDING
JUVENILE AND ADULT SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS
FY2016-2017 COMPETITIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants are limited to new and existing Arkansas Juvenile and Adult Specialty Court Programs working through teams and/or multicounty partnerships in judicial districts that can demonstrate a reduction in the number of offenders committed to juvenile detention, state juvenile/treatment facilities or adult confinement facilities. Grants awarded shall be one-time-only grants during the 2016-2017 fiscal years, not contingent on measured performance. All future Accountability Court Grant Funding, while not guaranteed, will be tied to measured performance.

Applicants must establish and/or utilize an adult or juvenile specialty court team in accordance with best practices for the development, support, implementation, monitoring and evaluating outcomes of the proposed program.

The applicant must be the entity with the primary responsibility for administering the funding and managing the overall program. The applicant will be legally responsible for complying with all applicable state rules and regulations in receiving and expending state funds.

Applications for Juvenile and Adult Accountability Court Funding will be reviewed by separate grant committees. The grant committee reviewing the Adult Accountability Court Funding applications will be comprised of two members appointed by the Chair of the Specialty Courts Advisory Committee and the Directors of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Division of Youth Services (DYS), and Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) or their designee.

The grant committee reviewing applications for Juvenile Accountability Court Funding will be comprised of one member appointed by the Chair of the Specialty Courts Advisory Committee, a behavioral health expert in juvenile drug court treatment to be determined by DYS and AOC, and the Directors of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Division of Youth Services (DYS), and Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) or their designee. The Committees will

review and determine grants to be distributed in accordance with the base funding formula established by the Judicial Council and any funds deemed available after Notification of Intent to Apply deadline. A total of \$2,800,000 is available to be awarded through the 2016-2017 Biennium. The Committees may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years dependent on the merit of the program and availability of funding and appropriation.

In order to submit a completed grant application, applicants must submit a ***Notification of Intent to Apply*** for allowable base funding via email or letter to ACC. The Notification of Intent shall specify the amount of base funding that will be requested in the grant submission pursuant to the Specialty Court Funding Formula allocation. This will allow ACC and AOC to determine how much additional funding above the base funding formula that may be awarded to applicants in addition to their base request included in the original grant applications.

Contact Information

For assistance with submitting an application, contact:

Megan Smith, ACC Budget Administrator – 501-682-5040 or email megan.smith@arkansas.gov or

Kari Powers, AOC State Drug Coordinator – 501-682-9400 or email kari.powers@arkansas.gov or

Connie Tanner, AOC Director of Court Services – 501-410-1950 or email connie.tanner@arkansas.gov

Assistance will be available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for state holidays.

A. Program Description

Act 895 of 2015 authorized ACC to promulgate rules for the implementation of an Accountability Court Grant Funding Program for participating juvenile and adult specialty court programs as defined under §16-10-139 as follows:

- (1) A pre-adjudication program under §5-4-901;
- (2) An approved drug court program under §16-98-301 et seq.;
- (3) A Swift and Certain Accountability on Probation Pilot Program under §16-93 1701 et seq.; and
- (4) Any other specialty court program that has been approved by the Supreme Court, including without limitation specialty court programs known as:
 - (A) A DWI court;
 - (B) A mental health court;
 - (C) A veteran's court;
 - (D) A juvenile drug court;
 - (E) A "HOPE" court;
 - (F) A "smarter sentencing" court; and
 - (G) A mental health crisis intervention center.

Grants will be awarded based upon a formula approved by the Arkansas Judicial Council, reviewed by the Specialty Courts Advisory Committee and approved by the Legislative Council. All Specialty Courts must adhere to standards established by the Specialty Court Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the Juvenile and Adult Specialty Court Program is to reduce crimes committed by adult or felony offenders and to reduce the number of offenders committed to juvenile detention, state juvenile/treatment facilities or adult confinement facilities. By linking future funding to performance, this program creates a positive incentive for jurisdictions to enhance public safety and reduce costs to taxpayers.

B. Overview

During the past few years, Arkansas has posted one of the largest increases in the country in the number of persons committed to confinement facilities while the overall crime rate has remained flat. The United States as a whole utilized probation to a larger extent than Arkansas. The rate of persons on probation

supervision for the United States was 1,653 per 100,000 residents in contrast to 1,002 per 100,000 residents in Arkansas (JFA Associates Ten Year Population Projections prepared for the state). The increase in confinement of both the juvenile and adult prison populations is a result of a combination of factors including tough on crime assessment of penalties for non-violent crimes, the criminalization of offenders with mental illness and substance abuse disorders and tougher parole sanction policies. Accountability Court Grants are provided in response to the high number of non-violent offenders being incarcerated resulting in a significant cost to state taxpayers and as a means of encouraging options at the community level for offenders who can be safely and effectively supervised and held accountable in the community if resources are available for this purpose.

Successful applicants will be those willing to implement evidence-based programs and sanctions that divert offenders from commitment to juvenile detention, state juvenile/treatment facilities or adult confinement facilities into alternative community-based and sponsored programs. Programs may include:

- Utilization of an evidence-based risk and needs assessments and a range of services and sanction to juvenile and or adult offenders for the purpose of reducing criminal conduct and promoting positive crime-free behavior;
- Enhancement of public safety through the management and reduction of offender risk while under felony probation supervision and upon reentry into the community;
- Reduction of adult felony probation revocations to prison through implementation of community-based services, treatment and sanction options;
- Reduction of juvenile felony confinement to detention or state juvenile/treatment facilities through implementation of "Sixteen Strategies for Juvenile Drug Courts;"
- Improvement of offender accountability for their criminal behavior and for successful compliance with applicable court orders and conditions of supervision;

- Providing more intensive supervision;
- Expanding intermediate sanctions that may include but is not limited to electronic monitoring, mandatory community service, home detention, day reporting, restorative justice programs, work programs and incarceration in county jail;
- Expanding the availability of evidence-based rehabilitation programs including coordination of substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health treatment, anger management, cognitive behavior programs, job training/education and employment services; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of rehabilitation and supervision programs.

Accountability Court Funds allocated for approved Juvenile Specialty Courts shall be used to divert juvenile offenders from Arkansas Juvenile Detention Facilities and state juvenile/treatment facilities of the Division of Youth Services, including an estimated reduction goal in detention and commitments, along with estimated costs savings in a fiscal year. The program shall target population following “Sixteen Strategies” for Juvenile Drug Courts.

Use of funds must be for strategies encompassing evidence-based programs or practices. Funds must be used to support a plan approved by a local juvenile or adult court team that best advances the goals of the program.

C. Grant Award Information

1. Amount and Length of Award

Accountability Court Funds provided during the 2016-2017 Biennial period total \$2,800,000 for both adult and juvenile specialty court programs. Grantees successful in reducing the number of non-violent offenders returning to prison though not guaranteed will be eligible for future incentive funding that will be tied to measured performance. All Accountability Court Funding decisions for applications received will be made by the applicable Accountability Court Grant Funding Committee based on availability of funding. The Committee will notify applicants through grant awards. The

Committee maintains discretion to determine if a grantee is not compliant with applicable policies and standards and upon such determination, may terminate further funding.

2. Unallowable and Unreasonable Uses for Award Funds

All costs must support approved grant activities. ACC reserves the right to deny unallowable and unreasonable uses of award funds. Funds may not be used for the following:

- To supplant existing state/county/local funded programs
- Stipends; or
- Vehicles or any capital expenditures.

3. Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

No cash matching funds are required for applications submitted. However, local government entities are encouraged to provide voluntary match of cash or in-kind services.

4. Funds Distribution

All grants awarded shall be deposited with the county in the judicial district where the approved program is located. Distribution shall be made on a quarterly basis or as may be approved by the ACC Director according to need. In judicial districts having more than one county with a Specialty Court Program, the judge may designate the treasurer of one of the counties in the district to receive the grant funds. The treasurer designated by the court shall maintain a separate account of all grant funds and expenditures. In any county fiscal year for which an authorized program receives monies to be expended, the monies, including any accrued interest, shall be made available to the Specialty Court Program for approved expenses for each approved program.

D. Specialty Court Teams:

1. Juvenile Specialty Court Teams shall include team members outlined in the "Sixteen Strategies" for Juvenile Drug Courts as required by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

2. Adult Specialty Court Teams shall include team members listed within a program's core principles such as the "Ten Key Components" of Adult Drug Court, or as may be required by the Specialty Court Advisory Committee.

E. Reporting

1. Each approved Court Accountability Grant Program shall maintain a complete and accurate accounting of all grant funds received and provide Arkansas Community Correction with a quarterly accounting of expenditures. Each Program account is subject to Legislative Audit on an annual basis.
2. The Court Accountability Grant Program shall submit an annual report to ACC/AOC utilizing standardized measurement of success as defined and as may be required by the Specialty Court Advisory Committee.
3. Following the conclusion of the initial Accountability Court Program grant, the grant recipient will provide a comprehensive closeout report on the effectiveness of the program utilizing the standardized measurement of success as defined and as may be required by the Specialty Court Advisory Committee. Standardized measures required by the Specialty Court Advisory Committee will be posted on applicable agency websites.

F. Future Basis for Accountability Court Performance Incentive Grant Payments

Grants awarded to Adult and Juvenile Accountability Court Grant Programs shall be for an initial period commencing in Fiscal Year 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. Awards shall be one-time-only grants not contingent on measured performance. However, all future funding shall be tied to measured performance. The Arkansas Community Correction, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Division of Youth Services shall establish the baseline on which successful outcomes will be measured and the amount of costs avoided to be shared with successful programs to support their continuation.

G. Application and Submission Information

1. Notice of Intent to Apply

Prior to submitting a completed grant application, applicants are required to submit a Notification of Intent to Apply for applicable base funding via email or letter to ACC. The Notification of Intent shall specify the amount of base funding that will be requested in the grant submission pursuant to the Specialty Court Funding Formula basic funding allocation.

The applicant email or letter of intent shall contain the following information:

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Specialty Court Program: _____

Applicant intends to apply for the base funding allotment of \$ _____.

The intent notification shall be sent via email to Megan.Smith@Arkansas.gov or mailed to Megan Smith, ACC Budget Administrator, Two Union National Plaza, 105 West Capitol, 4th Floor, Little Rock, AR 72201 and must be received by ACC no later than October 1, 2015.

2. Application for Grant Funding

ACC and AOC will determine how much funding is available, above the Base Funding Formula to be allotted by the Accountability Court Grant Committee. Applicants who submit the Notification of Intent to Apply by the due date will then be able to apply for grants that include the base funding amount and any additional remaining funds. Notification of any additional funding available will be made by October 9, 2015

Applicants may request an applicable Adult or Juvenile Specialty Court

Competitive Grant Application via email to Megan.Smith@Arkansas.gov or by download from the ACC webpage at:

<http://www.dcc.arkansas.gov/programsServices/Pages/default.aspx>

One electronic copy of completed Grant Application must be submitted via email to Megan.Smith@Arkansas.gov **and** one signed copy mailed to Megan Smith, ACC Budget Administrator, Two Union National Plaza, 105 West Capitol, 4th Floor, Little Rock, AR 72201.

The deadline for submission of the email submitted application and the signed copy of the completed applications is by 5 p.m. on November 30, 2015.

H. Application Scoring

Both Adult and Juvenile Specialty Court plans will be reviewed and applications for implementation funding will be scored according to completeness and accuracy with respect to the following elements:

- **Adult Specialty Court Programs**
 - a. Summary - Total of 70 Points to include:
 - Reduction Plan (20 points)
 - Description of and Justification for the Target Population (10 points)
 - Description of Adult Specialty Court Team (5 points)
 - Description of Identified Needs - Gaps in Sanctions and Services (15 points)
 - Description of the Proposed Evidenced-Based Program Model (20 points)
 - b. Specialty Court Advisory Committee Commitment (10 points)
 - c. Timeline (5 points)
 - d. Budget (15 points)
- **Juvenile Specialty Court Programs**
 - a. Summary - Total of 70 points to include:
 - Reduction plan (20 points)
 - Description of Target population (10 points)

- Description of Juvenile Specialty Court Team (5 points)
 - Description of Identified Need – Gaps in Sanctions/Services (15 Points)
 - Funding for “Sixteen Strategies” or Evidence Based Practices (20 points)
- b. Specialty Court Advisory Committee Commitment (10 points)
 - c. Timeline (5 points)
 - d. Budget (15 points)

All grant awards made will include all requirements contained in this Announcement document even though they are not specifically reiterated in the application.